

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 03598 201715Z
ACTION NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5831

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 3598

STADIS//////////

FOR NEA/ARN DRAPER FROM PICKERING

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, JO, US
SUBJECT: TOW MISSILES

REF: A) AMMAN 3222, B) STATE 099968

1. I APPRECIATE YOUR FILLING ME IN ON YOUR IDEAS FOR POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO THE TOW MISSILE PROBLEM WHICH WE HAVE RAISED. IN GENERAL I AGREE WITH YOUR THESIS WHICH I TAKE TO BE THE FOLLOWING: THAT WE SHOULD REPLACE TOW MISSILES FOR JORDAN SUBJECT TO CAVEATS ABOUT NORMAL ATTRITION AND SHELF LIFE AND THAT WE SHOULD DO SO FROM RECOUPMENTS OR OTHERWIS UNSPENT MAP FUNDS AT NO CHARGE TO JORDAN'S REGULAR GRANT PROGRAM. IN ADDITION, REPLACEMENT WITHIN THE ABOVE GUIDELINES SHOULD TAKE PLACE AS FAILURES OCCUR AND SHOULD NOT BE A WHOLESALE REPLACEMENT AS WE PROPOSED IN OUR MESSA3.

). WITH RESPECT TO THE CAVEATS OF NORMAL FAILURE RATIOS AND SHELF LIFE, WE HAVE JUST HAD A REPRESENTATIVE ON THE MANUFACTURER VISIT US AND HE PASSED ON SOME INTERESTING INFOXJATION WHICH DOD MAY NOT BE GIVING YOU.

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3. ACTUATOR BOTTLE FAILURE HAS NOT OCCURRED IN LOTS HELD BY THE U.S. ARMY. THE ONLY LOTS Affected WERE THOSE IN FOREIGN HANDS. THE MANUFACTURER CANNOT PROVE IT, BUT BELIEVES STRONGLY THAT THE FAILURE OCCURS BECAUSE THE MISSILES IN THESE LOTS HAVE BEEN TESTED (BOTTLE VOLUME VERIFIED WITH WATER) IN A WAY NOT USED ON OTHERS. THE TEST WAS A

RANDOM SAMPLE SO NOT ALL MISSILES WILL BE INVOLVED,
ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE. SINCE THE U.S. ARMY'S FAILURE
RATE IS NOT INVOLVED IN THE COFTROVERSY, I.E., THE
2.5 PCT COVERS OTHER NORMAL AND EXPECTED FAILURES. I
BELIEVE WE HAVE A VERY GOOD CASE FOR REPLACING ALL
ACTUATOR BOTTLE FAILURES, NOT JUST THOSE OVER THE
2.5 PCT SINCE THAT FIGURE APPARENTLY RELATES TO OTHER
KINDS OF PROBLEMS.

4. ON SHELF LIFE, THE ORIGINAL FIGURE, WHICH ACCORDING TO
OUR SOURCE* WAS FIVE YEARS, HAS BEEN INCREASED TO
NINE AND NOW BEING CONSIDERED TO GO UP TO ELEVEN YEARS.
IF THIS IS TRUE IT SHOULD PRESENT NO PROBLEMS HERE.
JORDANIANS GOT THIS LOT OF MISSILES, WE BELIEVE, OFF
THE U.S. ARMY SHELF AND IT WAS ALREADY SOMEWHAT
ELDERLY WHEN IT ARRIVED, ALTHOUGH THEY INSISTED ON
GETTING IT RIGHT AWAY OUT OF INVENTORY.

5. RANK-AND-FILE CONFIDENCE IS MOST IMPORTANT.
MISSILE FAILURE CAN BE DETECTED BY VISUAL INSPECTION.
REPLACEMENT AS YOU SUGGESTED, SUBJECT TO POINTS WE HAVE
ADDED, SHOULD SOLVE THE PROBLEM. MANY THANKS.
PICKERING

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